President's Message - Shirley Shepherd

Thank you to Jules Kay, Area Ambassador for Kingsville, ON for promoting PCO at the Seniors Expo in the Kingsville arena with pickleball demonstrations and at the Lion's Club BBQ last month.

Many thanks also to Peter Darvill, Area Ambassador for Richmond/Delta, B.C. and Magdalene Choy for providing an introductory session at the Arbutus Club in Vancouver, B.C. last month. The club members were really impressed with Peter who instructed intermediate players and Magdalene who worked with the beginners. Their intermediate players are now more pressured to ensure they are scoring and serving correctly!

2014 Pickleball Canada National Open Championship:

The 3rd Pickleball Canada National Open Championship was held at the Abbotsford Recreation Centre in Abbotsford, B.C. on July 4 - 6, 2014. About 200 participants came from as far as Ontario, Florida and Alaska to compete in the largest pickleball tournament in Canada!

There were 21 events including Men’s, Women’s and Mixed Doubles 55+, 60+, 65+, 70+, Open and Under 55, Open Singles, Doubles and Mixed Doubles. As a Sanctioned Tournament, PCO members are eligible to receive Tier 1 Tournament Points.

Pickleball Canada had some Board members in attendance: Shirley Shepherd, Ed Burke and Merrie Lee. PCO Area Ambassadors from B.C. participated: Mike Shepherd (Abbotsford), Mike Carter (Osoyoos), Roberta Meakin (Penticton), Tim Mah (Kamloops), Jim Saunders (Kelowna), John Savoy (Nanaimo), Carol Haworth (Chilliwack), Gord Griffin (Chilliwack), Denis Zhekhovskiy (Vancouver), Peter Darvill (Ladner/Richmond), and Linda Brown (Sunshine Coast).

Among the competitors were the top 5.0 players in the
world, from Canada and the USA: Jennifer Lucore, Billy and Darcie Jacobsen, Chris Miller, Christine Barksdale, Wesley Gabrielsen, Steve Wong, Luba Zhekhoverkaya, Denis Zhekhoverkyiy, Theresa Orcutt, Cherilyn Drake, Scott Lennan, Glenn Griffin, Maurice Parobeck, Dave Touchet , Andrew Mckimmon and Che Cui.

Pickleball Canada would like to thank all the tournament sponsors: Tourism Abbotsford, Pro-Lite Sports, Onix Sports, Pickleball International, Pickleball Depot, I Got It Pickleball, Courtside Sports, IGA, Kintec,North Bellingham Golf Course, Murray GM Abbotsford, Great Clips and Ocean Park Pizza.
At the Opening Ceremony, City of Abbotsford Recreation Coordinator, Ryan Coreau and Deputy Mayor of the City of Abbotsford welcomed the participants and sang the Canadian and USA National anthems. Shirley Shepherd, President of Pickleball Canada welcomed everyone and thanked the City of Abbotsford's Jenny Thornton, Ryan Coreau, Alanna Carmichael and Kim Griffith for hosting this National event.

A big thank you to all the referees and volunteers: Ed Burke, Carol Haworth, Merrie Lee, Gord Griffin, Ken Witt, Judy Newman, Peter Darvill, Brian Parkes, Danny Garinger, Allan and Julie Turner, Gerry Logan, Janet Hutchinson, Anne and Ralph Laury, Gail Dorst... Many thanks to Abbotsford Recreation Centre for providing a delicious lunch, snacks and beverages. Thank you for your support, hard work, dedication and efforts for making the 2014 Pickleball Canada National Open Championship a great success!

For complete Tournament results go to page 8.

Other Great News and Updates:

The latest statistics from USAPA showed nearly 200,000 players, 8,000 courts and 2,500 places to play, with the lion’s share of that growth coming from the past couple of years in North America. B.C. has 89 Places to Play Pickleball with an estimated 6,111 players. Ontario. has 119 Places to Play Pickleball with an estimated 5,197 players.
Hello to all those who receive this Pickleball Canada newsletter.

Canada recently introduced anti-spam legislation which imposes special requirements on sending out electronic messages with heavy fines for failing to comply.

As I understand this law, I cannot e-mail This newsletter and any informational emails to you unless you have given your expressed or implied consent.

Since all of you, as far as I am aware, voluntarily subscribed to this newsletter, I will assume I have implied consent and that you wish to continue receiving the newsletter and any informational emails. If your name was added to the list without your consent, or if you no longer want to receive further emails, please reply and request that your name be deleted from the mailing list.

Denise Griffin
email: <gwgriffin@shaw.ca>
Newsletter Editor/Publisher:

PCO Board Members Positions Available:

Sanctioning tournaments and assigning tournament points - to receive Sanctioning requests and approve them according to Sanctioning tournament requirements and rules, and to assign tournament points for sanctioned tournaments.

Ratings Chair - to gather the players ratings from Club/Groups and create a database of IFP/PCO Ratings for all the players in Canada which will be published on our website.

If you are interested in serving as a PCO Board member, please send a resume with your qualifications, experience and ideas to promote the growth of pickleball to: president@pickleballcanada.org
On June 3 the Kingsville Parks and Recreation Department held its annual Seniors Expo in the arena. Not only did we have a booth, we also set up a court on the arena floor and did pickleball demonstrations. Many of the guests were invited to try the game and, like the rest of us, they loved it. On top of all that our Kingsville pickleball group, lead by my wife Mary and Wayne Halpert's wife Jude, ran a concession booth selling barbecued sausages and hamburgers. Homemade baked goods supplied by our picklers were also for sale. A few hours after the Seniors Expo Wayne, Jude, Mary and I went to our local Lion's Club for a BBQ. Little did we know that they would ask us to address their members and tell them about pickleball. I spoke on behalf of our group.

There were many questions and much interest from the Lion's members. What a great day we had. Kingsville has clearly adopted pickleball. We are so fortunate. Despite the tennis association not accepting the name change, that will not stop us from growing this great game. Here are some pictures from the expo.

Submitted by Jules Kay

This was our Pickleball Demo day in Port Clements, on Haida Gwaii, BC

Upcoming BC Senior Games
Pickleball is Featured

2014 BC Senior Games,
September 9 to 13, 2014

Check it out at:
http://www.2014bc seniorsgames.org
This month Pickleball Canada Organization would like to showcase Russ French. Russ accumulated 2000 tournament points in 2013.

My name is Russ French and I am a pickleball addict.

I started playing this game in the spring of 2010 and haven’t stopped. Over the past few years, I have been a convener, ambassador for Durham Region, been into high schools to teach students the game, currently on the board of Pickleball Association of Ontario and an avid player. I love the social aspect of this game as well as the physical challenge. The people you meet wherever you play is paramount to the game. Wherever I travel, I bring along my paddle and find a club to play at. I have even taught pickleball to a Korean family that I met on a cruise my wife and I were on.

Pickleball is a funny game. Some days your shots are bang on and going where you want and other days it seems that you can do nothing right. That’s why playing this sport and going into tournaments is so important. You can participate in “Recreational Tournaments” or “Sanctioned Tournaments” depending on your comfort level. Regardless of which type of tournament you play in, the social aspect of the game is very important. You meet a lot of wonderful people playing this sport.

Preparing for tournaments is so important and is always the same. Practice, practice and more practice. I play at various venues in Windsor, Ontario five days a week and we have also started a drill workshop where you practice one specific skill till you mastered this skill and then move on to the next – like third shot, dinking, serve etc. I also get a few people together most Saturday mornings at the outside Pickleball courts and we practice drills for an hour and then have fun play.

Tournament play is extremely fun and useful if you are the kind of player that always strives to be a better player. You may be one of the best players in your area but the joy of tournament play is to be exposed to other great players and learning from them. There isn’t a tournament that I have played in that I have not learned something about this game from another player. I am fortunate to medal in many tournaments that I have entered in the 70+ category. Some of the tournaments that I have played in were in London, Brampton, Mississauga, PAO Tournament in Oshawa, and Rochester Michigan. Now that I have relocated to Windsor, Ontario I am now playing in the Michigan tournament play and am going into my first rated tournament in August in Royal Oak, Michigan USA. We will see how this goes!!!!
Upcoming Tournaments

Important Note:
This is to advise that - due to popular demand - the Singles has been put back in to the Nanaimo Pickleball Tournament this year.
The Singles will be played on Friday, July 25th from 5.00 – 9.00 p.m.

2014 Alberta Open Pickleball Championships
July 18-20 - Oakridge Community Association, Calgary, AB. PCO Sanctioned and IFP Rules
Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles, Mixed Doubles all skill levels and Open events. Cost $45/person for first division and $20 for each additional division.
Entry deadline is July 4th with an early bird draw if registered by June 18, 2014 For more info and to register 2014ABOpenPB@gmail.com

Registration and information:
This a rated tournament with ratings from 2.5 / 3.0 / 3.5 / 4.0 / 4.5+". The dates are July 25th, 26th and 27th.
Reminder - registration fee for the tournament is $30 and $5 per event.
Singles will be played on Friday 25th from 5.00 – 9.00 p.m.
Men's and Ladies Doubles on the 26th and Mixed Doubles on the 27th.
Lunch included Saturday / Sunday.
Register by phone at Oliver Woods Recreation Center, 6000 Oliver Street, Nanaimo, B.C. Phone: (250) 756-5200 nanaimopickleball@gmail.com

2nd Annual Vernon Outdoor Pickleball Tournament
A Player Rating 3.5+ tournament, limited to 64 participants, will be held on Saturday, July 26, 2014 at MacDonald Park, Vernon, BC. International Federation of Pickleball Rules apply. Non-compliant equipment is not permitted. For further information and Registration contact: brianburgesslaw@hotmail.com
Pickleball Open Tournament
Peachland Community Centre, 4450 6th Street, Peachland, BC
Saturday August 23 and Sunday August 24, 2014
Sanctioned by Pickleball Canada
SATURDAY: Doubles Round Robin - Men's and Women's 3.0 and 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5
SUNDAY: Mixed 4.5 and 5.0
Each player is guaranteed 7 games within a group of 8 players for each event entered.
ENTRY FEE: PCO members $15.00
Non members $20.00 (includes a PCO membership)
Add $5.00 for each event entered
LUNCH is included each day
SATURDAY NIGHT - 5:00 PM - BUFFET $20.00
REGISTER: In Person: Peachland Community Centre, 4450 6th Street, Peachland, BC
By Phone: 250-767-2133
Online: http://www.peachland.ca click on Recreation Link ACTIVITY: 2236
For further information contact the Tournament Directors: Mike Carter
250-484-0245 mike.carter108@gmail.com
Doug Power 250-494-7494 powerdoug@hotmail.com

Any player or group who would like to have their tournament advertised, please send request to: Denise at de.griffin@sasktel.net
# The National Results

## Pickleball Canada National Open Championship - 2014-07-04

### Men - Singles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gold</th>
<th>Silver</th>
<th>Bronze</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open Wesley Gabrielsen</td>
<td>Brian Lam</td>
<td>Chris Miller</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Women - Singles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gold</th>
<th>Silver</th>
<th>Bronze</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open Jennifer Lucore</td>
<td>Roberta Meakin</td>
<td>Shelley Lawrence</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Men - Doubles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gold</th>
<th>Silver</th>
<th>Bronze</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55+ Maurice Parobac - Dan Jmaeff</td>
<td>Brian Lam - Garry Lum</td>
<td>Glenn Cho - Henry Paynter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+ Doug Dimery, - Jim Scorgie</td>
<td>Tim Mah - Ross Perkin</td>
<td>Louis Lalone - Ray Timbers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70+ Ron Hohman - Larry Silver</td>
<td>Jim Saunders - Doug Ross</td>
<td>Tim Ames - Danny Hui</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Steve Wong - Glenn Griffin</td>
<td>Chris Miller - Billy Jacobsen</td>
<td>Denis Zhekhovskiy - Scott Lennan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 55 Dave Touchet - Andrew McKimmon</td>
<td>Rob Schneider - Dave Briones</td>
<td>Michael Epp - Mark Lowe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Women - Doubles

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gold</th>
<th>Silver</th>
<th>Bronze</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>55+ Karen Sawatsky - Terri Welch</td>
<td>Lori Beechinor - Mary Dallas</td>
<td>Beryl Kusch - Claire Pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+ Brenda Jmaeff - Nancy Stern</td>
<td>Elaine Lerner - Teresa Orcutt</td>
<td>Shirley Edwards - Mida Postler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+ Linda Brown - Sharon Moore</td>
<td>Doreen Holmes - Faye Oakes</td>
<td>Merrie Lee - Barbara Miachika</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70+ Alice Tym - Betty Silver</td>
<td>Karin Rees - Silvia Simpson</td>
<td>Cookie Drake - Che Cui</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Christine Barksdale - Luba Zhekhovskaya</td>
<td>Jennifer Lucore - Darcie Jacobsen</td>
<td>Jill Jackson - Elizabeth Peckham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 55 Fion Chou - Magdalene Choy</td>
<td>Karen Heinrichs - Kim Hunk Kopp</td>
<td>Andrew McKimmon - Fion Chou</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Mixed Doubles

<table>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>55+ Ken Franz - Karen Sawatsky</td>
<td>Matt Annan - Terri Welch</td>
<td>Maurice Parobac - Rosemary Nichol</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60+ John Savoy - Nancy Stern</td>
<td>Brian Parkes - Elaine Lerner</td>
<td>Dan Jmaeff - Brenda Jmaeff</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+ David Ulis - Anne McCallum</td>
<td>Jim Saunders - Terry Saunders</td>
<td>John Kusch - Kathleen Parkes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70+ Alice Tym - Ron Hohman</td>
<td>Larry Silver - Betty Silver</td>
<td>Andy Bakogeorge - Sharon Moore</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Christine Barksdale - Wesley Gabrielsen</td>
<td>Steve Wong - Cookie Drake</td>
<td>Luba Zhekhovskaya - Denis Zhekhovskiy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Under 55 Andrew McKimmon - Fion Chou</td>
<td>Roberta Meakin - Peter Neumann</td>
<td>Magdalene Choy - Peter Darvill</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Pictures on page 9.*
Podium positions: (Left, Bronze) (Centre, Gold) (Right, Silver)
Pickleball Tournament Amsterdam

What happened:
75 participants from 6 countries competed in the first International Pickleball Tournament in Europe. The atmosphere was very friendly and we think everybody enjoyed it very much. For a lot of the participants it was the first time they played in a tournament with people from abroad. This, together with the great clinics from Zack Grubbs and Bobbi Little brought pickleball to a higher level in Europe and Asia! We’re inspired to work on the growth of pickleball in the Netherlands and Europe. So the next tournament in Amsterdam will be the Dutch Championship in April 2015. Another plan is to organize a European Championship in October 2015 in Madrid. In May 2016 (probably May 20-22) we’ll organize the 2nd International Pickleball Tournament in Amsterdam. We’ll keep you posted. And if you can’t wait: Michael Hess from Spain organizes great pickleball tours in Europe with clinics and culture: www.vivapickleballtours.com. Next ones are in September 2014! The following are links to Videos of the tournament:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pWsdfJWlvIo,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=82VIgGb_E80,
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gv5mDSQjZAc.

We hope to see all of you and your friends again! Thanks for your participation and support.

Bernadette Snijders Blok, Carine Thesingh, and Yolande de Waal
On Tuesday, May 26, 2014, Bruce Doughty, the President of the Pickleball Association of Ontario (PAO) attended the Whitby Operations Committee Meeting in the Whitby Council Chambers to hear the Draft Sports Facility Strategy Technical Background Report from Todd Brown of Monteith Brown Planning Consultants. Todd has been surveying and meeting with user groups of recreation facilities to help Whitby plan for sports facilities for the next 20 years. It was reported by the consultants that the facility should be age-friendly, culturally relevant, accessible to all and include drop-in programs. He also specifically mentioned pickleball as a "growing sport". Monteith Brown will be tabling a draft report for the community to review in early 2015. There will be further opportunity for public input. You can be sure that the Whitby pickleballers and the PAO will be participating and following with interest the development and implementation of a sports facility strategy for Whitby that includes more pickleball venues, indoors and outdoors! Submitted by Carol Doughty

A great turnout for our second year of pickleball participation in the 55+ Manitoba Summer Games. I was pleased to see such good representation from so many communities in the Province. Winnipeg, Morden, Neepawa, Carmen, Killarney and Flin Flon. A very enthusiastic group of people who really enjoy the game of pickleball. A big thanks to all the Neepawa volunteers who made the games so successful.

Our experienced Ladies Doubles winners, Dianne Dunsford and Nina Constable will be travelling to the Canada 55+ Senior Games in Edmonton at the end of August and we want to wish them the best of luck.

This sport is growing in Manitoba as it is all over the country and we look forward to many more participants for next year's Manitoba 55+ games in Beausejour. Keep Pickling and have fun. Submitted by Nina Constable
**Reporting from rain drenched Saskatchewan.**  We are now on our summer schedule for pickleball. Individuals can play every day except Sunday at some facility or tennis court. The interest is there, the people are coming out, what more can we ask for. *Submitted by Carol Martens-Clappison, Pickleball Saskatchewan Ambassador.*

**Results Bill Franzman Tier 3 Co-ed Doubles Round Robin Tournament at Mount Boucherie School Gym in Kelowna, BC on June 14, 2014**

**GOLD:**
- Darrell Sherrin, Kelowna
- Ed Burke, Kelowna
- Ernest Treichel, Penticton
- Eva Hambley, Vernon
- Raymond Timbers, Kelowna
- Roberta Meakin, Penticton
- Van Mallow, Kelowna
- Vicklyn Foshole-luke, Calgary

**SILVER:**
- Carole Chiswell, Peachland
- Dale Charlton, Kelowna
- Jim Scoogie, West Kelowna
- Manfred Schulz, West Kelowna
- Margaret Kessler, West Kelowna
- Nancy Agassiz, Vernon
- Pat Andrews, Coldstream
- Yasantha Abhukoralu, Summerland

**BRONZE:**
- Colin Chiswell, Peachland
- Dan Bawn, Kelowna
- Gord Young, Oliver
- Lisa Thompson, Vernon
- Marilyn Tamba, Summerland
- Peter Neumann, Penticton
- Pierre Poirier, Kelowna
- Wendy Porteous, Kelowna

**Junior Programs and Camps Starting Across the Country**

**Kingsville, Ontario**
The Kingsville Parks and Recreation Department will be running a pickleball camp during the week of July 14. The purpose is to introduce pickleball to the Kingsville youth. *Submitted by Jules Kay*

**Pickleball Junior Program - 2014 - Parkinson Recreation Centre Outdoor Courts**
Pickleball Kelowna has introduced a new Pickleball Junior Program scheduled on Sundays from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. Registration fee $5.00 for the summer.

This program is for those 12 to 18 years old. Players who are 12 or 13 must be accompanied by an adult. The adult must remain at the courts for the full time of play and may be asked to help and if time is available may also join in the play.

This is a game for everyone, no matter what your age. However, this particular program is for juniors. The game is played on a badminton-sized court, indoors or outdoors, using a plastic perforated ball and a smooth surface paddle. Paddles and balls are provided. Please wear loose fitting clothing and suitable court shoes.

The aim of the program is to have fun while learning how to play a game that we are sure will keep your interest and make you anxious to return as soon as possible.

This is a great opportunity for juniors to play with their peers, learn skills and maybe introduce the game to their school recreation program....we are here to help with this if needed.

Players may register anytime by phone 250-860-4425 or email bafran@shaw.ca.
Last Call For Canada Senior Games In Sherwood Park, Alberta!

Upcoming Canadian Summer Games
Pickleball is Featured
http://www.canada55plusgames.com

Yes, there is still time to enter the Canada Senior Games hosted by the amazing Strathcona County, Alberta in a beautiful state of the art facility. Contact Linda Dane for last minute information prior to July 23, 2014 ldane@daneco.com This is not just a pickleball tournament, this is a weeklong celebration honoring wellness and the benefits of being an active senior. Besides lots of pickleball, included in your registration package is:

- Opening and Closing ceremonies
- Admission to an Art Festival
- Transportation to events
- A pancake breakfast
- Entertainment every evening

submitted by Linda Dane, Board Member and Treasurer PCO
New Club Membership Announcements

Pickleball Canada would like to welcome the following new affiliated club memberships:

- Oceanside Pickleball Club, Parksville, BC with 117 club members.
- Pickleball Saskatchewan, Regina, Saskatchewan with 50 club members.
- Spruce Grove Pickleheads, Spruce Grove, AB with 64 club members.

This brings the Total number of affiliated clubs to 13

Submitted by Shirley Shepherd

Please re-new or join PICKLEBALL CANADA

Membership application form is available on the web site. Completed form and payment can be

PICKLEBALL CANADA ORGANIZATION
10823 – 82 AVENUE, EDMONTON, ALBERTA, T6E 2B2

MEMBERSHIP RATES FOR PICKLEBALL CANADA
New/re-new membership rates are:
One year $12.00
Three years $32.00
Five years $50.00

Club Group Rates available (20 members min.), contact: president@pickleballcanada.org
**Your Board Of Directors**

Shirley Shepherd, President - email: president@pickleballcanada.org
Garth Merkeley, VP & Ambassadors - email: gmerkeley@shaw.ca
Shirley Shepherd, Secretary - email: shirleyshepherd@shaw.ca
Linda Dane, Treasurer - email: ldane@daneco.com
Denise Griffin, Editor & Publisher - email: <gwgriffin@shaw.ca>
Merrie Lee, Memberships - email: ardmer@hotmail.com
Christine Perras, Chair Rules Committee - thesevenofus@shaw.ca
Jim Dixon, Webmaster - email: sysop@pickleballcanada.org
Ed Burke, Director at large - email: Ed Burke <edburke@live.com>
Patsy Simon, Director at large - email: psimon@staff.ednet.ns.ca
Bill Furse, Director at large - email: bffurse@sympatico.ca

**Provincial Ambassadors**

AB - Linda Dane  ldane@daneco.com  
BC - Shirley & David Shepherd  shirleyshepherd@shaw.ca  
Sask - Carol Martens-Clappison  carolsarahmartens@sasktel.net  
MB - Brian Shippam  shippam@mts.net  
Ont. - Dave Hall  twoboomers@yahoo.ca  
Que - Claude Gauthier  claudetteylne@yahoo.ca  
NB - Raymond Doiron  info@pickleballnb.ca  
PEI - Garth Matthews  g.matthews@hotmail.com  
NS - Patsy & Steve Simon  psimon@staff.ednet.ns.ca

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**NEW GOAL**

2000 Members by December 31, 2014

Congratulations on 2000 Here we come

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**Rules Corner**

**Question:** It absolutely makes no sense that the server can serve, fast and hard to the wrong court, hit the receiver's partner and get the point... because of this rule of interference. Can anyone comment on this? Thanks in advance for your attention.

**Answer:** Rule 7 covers the item in question, more specifically 7.F.

"""**SECTION 7 – FAULT RULES**

7.F. The ball in play strikes a player or anything the player is wearing or carrying. .. In doubles, if the serve strikes the receiver’s partner, it is a point for the serving team.

In the example you were referring to, it could not be a fault on the server since the ball was still in play when it hit the receiver partner or his/her clothes. In the same fashion, if the ball hit the receiver or his/her clothing it would be a point for the serving team. Sometimes the receiver’s partner encroaches on the receiving court and the servers intended path for the ball, as a means of intimidation or distraction, but he or she does run the risk of being hit and losing the point. If you are paying attention to the game, you should be able to get out of the way of a serve.

In similar fashion, when opponents are playing close to the net it is quite common to aim at the opponent to prevent him/her from returning the ball. It is an integral part of the game.

Know the rules and be a better player!